



Larson Report

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E-NEWS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Personnel (Vice-
Chair)

Parks, Energy and
Environment

Transportation,
Public Works and
Transit

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What would help
make Milwaukee
County Government
more accessible to
you?

Please call me or
send me an email
with your thoughts.

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for all of the emails, letters, phone calls, face-to-face meetings and great survey responses. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the County Supervisor for such an active district! I hope that you will continue to contact me regularly with your ideas and concerns. Or, just call to chat and catch up once in a while. Please continue to keep our dialogue open and let me know what you think of what's going on at the County.

In this issue of the Larson Report you'll find:

- ***My response to Supervisor's DC Trip***
- ***Economic Stimulus for Milwaukee County***
- ***Senior Citizen Hall of Fame***
- ***Park Happenings***
- ***Free Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo***

My response to the Supervisor's D.C. Trip

Since the story first broke 2 weeks ago of two Supervisors going to Washington, D.C., on taxpayer funds, I have received many calls and emails. I was also upset when I heard that two of my colleagues decided that a \$4000 trip to D.C. would be in the best interest of the County. I, along with many of my fellow supervisors, disagree with their decision and have expressed that to them. Under pressure from the public, they publicly apologized and announced that they will reimburse the County.

To prevent any further problems in the future, I am working on legislation to provide more oversight of County travel.

I will continue to work to change the culture of the County Board by working to come up with new legislation that will provide more public access to all County activities. This "Sunshine Legislation" will make it

easier for constituents (like you) to see what is going on in committees, how offices are spending discretionary office funds, and allow for a better flow of information to the public.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/38568387.html>

Economic Stimulus for Milwaukee County

Milwaukee County residents expect their tax dollars to be returned to their neighborhoods to benefit the greater good. We should expect no less from the federal taxes we pay. That is why I find it so disappointing that County Executive Scott Walker made the decision to not seek federal funding as part of the upcoming economic stimulus package for local governments. We pay into the system and should see a reasonable return on our investments. I am pleased that the County Board stepped up and submitted numerous “shovel-ready” projects that can stimulate our economy and provide permanent improvements for County residents.

Several of the projects submitted to the federal government benefit the 14th Supervisory District:

- \$120,000 for the rehabilitation of the South Shore Park shoreline.
- Purchasing 155 new buses for the Milwaukee County Transit System
- Reducing bus fares from \$2.00 to \$1.75
- Humboldt Park: more than \$300,000 in improvements to the tennis courts and walkways
- Holler Park: \$185,000 for the construction an eco-friendly parking lot, pavilion restoration and accessibility improvements
- \$93 million in projects at Mitchell International Airport, including the construction of a College Avenue tunnel to allow for the extension of the north-south runway

More than \$500 million in improvements were submitted to the Obama Administration. It's likely that only a portion of these projects will be approved, but the County Executive should not ignore this opportunity by claiming that we can't afford the local match. In reality, without federal funding, local taxpayers will be burdened with these costs. It is more than appropriate that we seek assistance from the federal government. A 10% or 20% local match is a much better deal than bearing 100% of these costs locally.

Scott Walker's job is to represent Milwaukee County. Unfortunately, his personal political ambitions are distracting him from the very real needs we have in Milwaukee County. His opposition to federal funding to

reduce property taxes, could hurt Milwaukee County taxpayers.



Supervisor Chris Larson speaks at a rally for Milwaukee County stimulus dollars.

Milwaukee County's 12th Annual Senior Citizen Hall of Fame

Milwaukee County and the Department on Aging have announced the 12th Annual Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame honors older adults in Milwaukee County who have made significant volunteer contributions to the community.

This is a great way to recognize senior citizens in your community who have made a difference in your neighborhood. We currently have over a decade worth of Senior Citizen Hall of Famers. If you would like to nominate an individual for his or her special commitment to the community, this is a wonderful opportunity!

There will be up to five senior citizens chosen for the 2009 Hall of Fame. The nominees will be selected no later than April 6th, and nominations must be post-marked by March 13, 2009.

For more information check out the official Milwaukee County Senior Hall of Fame website:

<http://www.milwaukee.gov/HallofFame12748.htm>

Or call (414) 289-6873

Park Happenings

Ice Fishing Clinic for Kids:

- * **Free ice fishing instruction** for children 15 years and younger;

small children must be accompanied by an adult

- * Taught by members of local fishing clubs
- * Clinics begin every hour starting at 9am, with the last session starting at 2pm.
- * All fishing equipment provided.

Humboldt Park, 3000 S. Howell Ave.

(hosted by Great Lakes Sport Fisherman & Milwaukee Casting Club)

Wilson Park, 1601 W. Howard Ave.

(hosted by Wisconsin Fishing Club)

For more information, or for groups of 20 or more, call, (414) 263 – 8614

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Mitchell Park Domes are open from 9am to 5pm (with some exceptions until 7pm) to showcase their new LED lighting system and interior improvements. Regular admission rates apply. **“Music Under Glass,”** an after-hours new concert series takes place Thursday evenings thru March 26th from 6:30 to 8:30pm. (see release) This Thursday’s concert will feature, **“The Championship,”** a band that specializes in Folk Rock music. The Train Show, **“LEGOLAND,”** is open and running in the Show Dome (see release). The Domes is also making preparations for its celebrated **“Be My Valentine at the Domes,”** a romantic escape for couples, that will occur on Feb. 14th from 6pm-10pm.

For more information call: (414) 649 – 9830

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The 32nd annual Snowmobile Festival sponsored by the Rolling Dice Riders of Franklin, the festival will take place on Saturday, Feb. 7th from 11am-4pm at the Wil-O-Way Underwood Recreation Center, 10602 Underwood Parkway in Wauwatosa. This **FREE** event will offer an afternoon of music, food and snowmobile rides (rides from noon-3pm).

For more information or to reserve a space for an individual or group call: (414) 482-0133

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Cross Country Ski Rental is available at the Whitnall Park Golf Clubhouse, just south of 92nd and College Ave., for \$25 per pair for the day or \$100 per week. The clubhouse is open Sat. (10am to 8pm); Sun.

(10am to 6pm). The toboggan slide at Whitnall Park is open on Fri. 4-8pm, Sat. noon-8pm and Sun. noon-6pm.

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Door County Sled Dogs is offering authentic dog sled rides at Veterans Park, 1010 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., in front of the open air pavilion near the Brady Street bridge, continuing each weekend, Saturdays & Sundays from 11am to 1pm. weather permitting through March 09. Door County Sled Dogs is made up of a team of 4 to 6 adult Siberian Huskies and is operated though a Milwaukee County Park partnership by Bonnie Ulrich and Rick Desotell. The Dog Sled hotline number for up-to-date information and trail conditions is (414) 967-9677.

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Ice Skating is open downtown at Red Arrow Park, 920 N. Water Street, with skate rental at \$6 per pair or free skating if one brings his own skates. Open hours are Mon. thru Thurs. 11am to 8pm, Fri.- Sat. 11am to 11pm and Sunday 11am to 6pm. For information call Red Arrow at (414) 289-8791. **Lake Park ice rink** is also open M-F 3-8pm and weekends 12:30-8pm. Hockey only is offered 8-10pm at Lake Park daily. Ice-skating is also open, weather permitting, at:

- * Brown Deer
- * Sheridan (3-8pm)
- * Humboldt(3-8pm)
- * Kosciuszko (M-Tues. 3-7pm)

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An **Owl Prowl for Families will occur at the Wehr Nature Center** on Friday, Feb. 6th from 7-9pm. Join a naturalist for an evening out with the owls. Walk the woodlands of Wehr Nature Center looking for the Eastern Screech Owl and the Great Horned Owl. **Reptile Day** is coming to Wehr on Sunday, Feb. 15 from 1-4pm. For more information call the Wehr Nature Center at (414) 425-8550.

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The Currie Park Golf Dome, 3535 N. Mayfair Rd., is now open everyday from 8am to 10pm. This heated indoor driving range offers target greens, PGA Lessons & Video analysis, free use of demo clubs, group lessons, corporate and group outings and much more. Milwaukee County Golf discount cardholders are entitled to a discount. For more information go to curriegolfdome.com or call them at (414) 453-1742.

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Bartolottas Restaurant Group provides a Sunday Brunch from 10:30am – 2:00pm at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Hales Corners year round. Their Friday evening Fish Fry is also available. For reservations call (414) 525-5635.

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Free Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo

Another free day at the Zoo is coming up on Saturday, February 7, 2009 from 9:30am – 4:30pm sponsored by North Shore Bank and Fox 6. Visitors receive free admission, but the parking fee remains in effect. Visit www.milwaukeezoo.org for more information.